
Daily sitting 4

Friday, October 28, 2022

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. LeBlanc, Member for Shediac-Beaubassin-Cap-Pelé, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to review rental property tax assessments and maintain the rent cap. (Petition 1)

Ms. Landry gave Notice of Motion 1 that on Thursday, November 3, 2022, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Bourque:

WHEREAS the Auditor General has cautioned against moving too quickly to implement changes in French language instruction;

WHEREAS, in the *2021 Review of the Official Languages Act of New Brunswick: Report on second language learning*, the commissioners expressed concern that “[d]ecades of constantly changing plans and strategies have created significant instability in the system” and suggested making changes to the French immersion program in a strategic manner that is supportive rather than disruptive;

WHEREAS the commissioners also suggested that the approach be strengthening rather than dismantling;

WHEREAS data on the existing programs, confirmed by provincial assessments, indicate that over 90% of students who complete the French immersion program achieve at least an intermediate level of French or conversational level of proficiency;

WHEREAS the Commissioner of Official Languages suggests enhancing French language instruction, but warns about “throwing the baby out with the bathwater”;

WHEREAS the Canadian Association of Immersion Professionals believes that the French immersion program should co-exist with a new base-level program but should not be eliminated;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick chapter of Canadian Parents for French has expressed the same concerns;

WHEREAS there have been significant disruptions in learning over the past two years and there is a need to focus on a plan to ensure students who have fallen behind receive the support they need;

WHEREAS teachers are focused on trying to ensure the educational needs of all children are being met, and a major change to educational programming may have serious impacts on learning;

WHEREAS there is grave concern that there would not be enough teachers with a background in French language instruction to implement the educational program changes proposed by government;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Teachers' Association has announced that it has withdrawn from French as a second language consultations because of the government's unreasonable timeline for implementing changes, saying that it will destabilize the education system;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government not to eliminate the French immersion program, but rather to enhance it;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, prior to moving forward with major changes to the education system to provide for additional French language learning opportunities for students who have not opted for French immersion, the Legislative Assembly urge the government to prepare a detailed implementation plan with realistic timelines for implementation, adequate funding, and a recognition of the supports that must be in place to support these changes.

Mr. Bourque gave Notice of Motion 2 that on Thursday, November 3, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Gauvin:

WHEREAS the province has reached a crisis situation with respect to the lack of affordable housing in many areas of the province;

WHEREAS this crisis has deepened because rents in many existing housing units have increased dramatically, beyond affordability for many tenants;

WHEREAS the temporary rent cap is set to expire;

WHEREAS there is not enough subsidized housing to meet the demand and many units that should be housing low-income tenants are awaiting repairs which the government has not undertaken;

WHEREAS cold weather is upon us and there are people who have been sleeping in cars and tents and unheated trailers as they have no place to live;

WHEREAS, although the government made an announcement in support of affordable housing, it was inadequate to address the need and failed to provide a framework for partnerships with not-for-profits, municipalities and co-operatives;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to immediately make significant investments in affordable housing and to fund a comprehensive affordable housing plan in the upcoming budget;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to extend the rent cap.

Ms. Landry gave Notice of Motion 3 that on Thursday, November 3, 2022, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Bourque:

WHEREAS, as a result of educational disruptions caused by COVID-19 over the past two years, many parents are concerned that their children have fallen behind with respect to their education and learning;

WHEREAS the last two years have been stressful for teachers and students alike;

WHEREAS there is uncertainty as to whether there may be new instructional disruptions if there are further significant outbreaks of COVID-19 in the future;

WHEREAS there is a need to ensure that New Brunswick schoolchildren do not fall behind educationally as a result of learning disruptions;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to assess the educational impact of learning disruption, bring forward a comprehensive and detailed plan to address educational “catch-up”, and provide sufficient resources to implement it;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to develop a plan to address any future disruptions in learning so that students are not educationally disadvantaged should this occur again.

Mr. Coon requested leave of the House to move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Mitton: (Motion 4)

THAT the Legislative Assembly recognizes that fracking and burning natural gas releases gases into the air, mainly carbon dioxide and methane, which exacerbates the climate crisis.

Leave to dispense with notice of Motion 4 was denied. Accordingly, notice was given for Thursday, November 3, 2022.

With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. G. Savoie moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier: (Motion 5)

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship be amended by substituting Mr. Ames for Ms. Bockus, Mr. Wetmore for Hon. Mr. Carr, Mr. Dawson for Ms. Conroy, Mr. LePage for Ms. Landry and Mr. Arseneault for Mr. LeBlanc;

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy be amended by substituting Ms. Conroy for Hon. Mr. Carr, Ms. Bockus for Mr. Cullins, Mr. Dawson for Hon. Mr. Austin, Mr. D'Amours for Mr. LePage, Mr. Bourque for Mr. K. Chiasson and Mr. Legacy for Mr. LeBlanc;

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy be amended by substituting Mr. Cullins for Hon. Mr. Carr, Ms. Conroy for Ms. Bockus, Ms. Anderson-Mason for Hon. Mr. Austin and Mr. C. Chiasson for Mr. Bourque;

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Law Amendments be amended by substituting Mr. Wetmore for Hon. Mr. Hogan, Ms. M. Wilson for Ms. S. Wilson and Mr. Mallet for Mr. Legacy;

THAT the membership of the Legislative Administration Committee be amended by substituting Mr. Wetmore for Hon. Mr. Hogan, Mr. McKee for Mr. Melanson and Mr. K. Chiasson for Mr. Arseneault.

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be amended by substituting Ms. M. Wilson for Ms. S. Wilson, Mr. Turner for Hon. Mr. Hogan, Ms. Conroy for Hon. Mr. Austin, Mr. Gauvin for Mr. C. Chiasson, Mr. Arseneault for Mr. Guitard and Mr. Arseneau for Ms. Mitton;

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers be amended by substituting Ms. M. Wilson for Hon. Mr. Carr, Ms. Bockus for Mr. Turner and Mr. K. Chiasson for Mr. Arseneault;

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be amended by substituting Ms. M. Wilson for Hon. Mr. Carr, Ms. Bockus for Ms. S. Wilson, Mr. Dawson for Mr. Ames, Mr. Cullins for Ms. Conroy, Mr. LeBlanc for Mr. Legacy and Mr. Bourque for Mr. McKee;

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Social Policy be amended by substituting Mr. Dawson for Mr. Wetmore, Ms. M. Wilson for Hon. Mr. Hogan, Ms. S. Wilson for Hon. Mr. Carr, Ms. Anderson-Mason for Mr. Turner, Mr. LeBlanc for Mr. Guitard and Ms. Thériault for Mr. K. Chiasson;

THAT the membership of the Select Committee on Accessibility in New Brunswick be amended by substituting Mr. Turner for Mr. Wetmore, Mr. Dawson for Hon. Mr. Fitch and Ms. Landry for Ms. Thériault; and

THAT the membership of the Select Committee on Public Universities be amended by substituting Ms. M. Wilson for Hon. Mr. Hogan, Ms. Anderson-Mason for Mr. Ames, Mr. Dawson for Ms. Conroy, Mr. K. Chiasson for Mr. C. Chiasson and Ms. Landry for Mr. Legacy.

And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Hon. Mr. R. Savoie, seconded by Mr. Dawson:

THAT the following Address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to offer the humble thanks of this House to Her Honour for the gracious speech which she has been pleased to make to the Legislative Assembly, namely:

Fredericton, N.B.
October 25, 2022.

To Her Honour,
The Honourable Brenda Murphy,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick.

May It Please Your Honour:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, now in session, beg leave to extend our humble thanks to Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us, and we assure Your Honour that all matters which may be submitted to us during the session will receive our most careful attention and consideration.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

And then, 1.50 p.m., the House adjourned.